

## Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 L-03 FAA-00 EA-11 CAB-09 FRB-02 RSR-01 /101 W

----- 107388

R 311130Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9969

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, MV

SUBJ: MINI COLD WAR

1. RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF SRI LANKA (GSL) AND MALDIVES (GOM) HAVE RECENTLY UNDERGONE GREAT STRAIN AS RESULT HIGH-HANDED ACTION BY CEYLONese CUSTOMS AGAINST ALI MANIKU, DIRECTOR OF MALDIVIAN NATIONAL TRADING CORP (MNTC). AS RESULT, GOM HAS SHIFTED ACTIVITIES FORMERLY CARRIED OUT BY MNTC TO COMMERCIAL SECTION OF ITS EMBASSY, IS THINKING OF SHIFTING SHIPPING AND OTHER COMMERICAL ACTIVITIES TO SINGAPORE AND SETTING UP AIR CONNECTION TO MALE EITHER FROM INDIA OR SINGAPORE DIRECTLY, AVOIDING COLOMBO ENTIRELY.

2. CEYLONese CUSTOMS ARRESTED, GRILLED AND FINED ALI MANIKU RS 297,741 FOR IMPROPERLY DECLARING 6000 POUNDS STERLING AND \$800 UPON ENTRY FROM MALDIVES. ALTHOUGH INTERVENTION BY MALDIVIAN PRESIDENT NASIR OBTAINED PERMISSION FOR MANIKU TO LEAVE SRI LANKA, CONCURRENT GOM REQUEST THAT MONEY BE RETURNED TO GOM AS OWNER AND PROTESTATION OF MANIKU'S INNOCENCE HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS. IN RETALIATION, GOM, WE ARE TOLD, IS CONSIDERING VARIOUS MOVES TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON GSL (GSL'S CENTRAL BANK ALSO OPERATES AS GOM'S CENTRAL BANK). ATMOSPHERE IN MALE IS ALSO REPORTED STRAINED

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FOR NUMEROUS CEYLONese TEACHERS AND TECHNICIANS EMPLOYED BY

GOM.

3. ALTHOUGH CEYLONENE MDFA IS EMBARRASSED BY INCIDENT, CEY-  
LONESE CUSTOMS REFUSES TO RESCIND ACTION. AS RESULT, GOM  
MAY SHIP ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE PROVIDED REVENUE FOR CEYLONENE  
(BANK CHARGES, PORT CHARGES, SHIPS' STORES, SHIP REPAIRS)  
AND WHICH CEYLONENE CAN USE IN THEIR PRESENT FINANCIAL SIT-  
UATION. SL AIR FORCE CHIEF MENDIS'S NEWLY-ESTABLISHED AND  
REPORTEDLY LUCRATIVE TOURIST RUNS TO MALE IN CONVAIR RECENTLY  
PURCHASES IN US COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED. INCIDENT MAY ALSO GIVE  
CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS TO GOM'S PLANS TO SET UP OWN CENTRAL  
BANK.  
KAY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINI COLD WAR  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CE, MV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005